

working since September 1953 and an Indian Soil Scientist and an agronomist have already returned from U. S. A. after training. Cartographer who was deputed for training abroad is likely to return shortly. ..

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House

Statement

Regional centres have been opened at Sabour, Kanpur, Delhi, Nagpur, Coimbatore and Poona for soil survey and work on collection of master profiles and associated samples is in progress. Agronomic trials with fertilisers are in progress in 40 centres, of which 25 are in community project areas. Data on paddy and wheat for one year have been obtained which are being analysed and interpreted. At the Indian Agricultural Research Institute a laboratory has been set up for rapid soil testing. Samples are being collected, analysed and data correlated with crop response for use in advising farmers for fertiliser requirements of their soils. A radiotracer and cartographic laboratory and a greenhouse building are under construction for work on radiophosphorus in soil fertility problems. Most of the equipment for radiotracer work and the radioactive phosphorus have been received.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know, Sir, what is the nature of the technical assistance which has been given by the United States of America?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: The reply which I have just given gives clearly the nature of the aid that we are getting. We have got an expert; we have got some equipment.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: Does it include equipment or does it include money?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: Equipment.

CHORD RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN SILIGURI AND ALIPURDUAR

*389. SHRI S. P. RAY: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Indian Tea Planters Association, Jalpaiguri, suggesting the construction of a chord railway line between Siliguri and Alipurduar, at a safe distance from the foot of the hills as a permanent solution of the communication troubles between those two stations during the monsoons; if so, what action has been taken thereon by Government; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam have also expressed their views in favour of a similar chord line to ensure suitable connection between Assam and the rest of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, Sir. This proposal will be considered in the light of the recommendations of the Joint Committee of State authorities and the Railway on the measures necessary to avoid damages by floods.

(b) No communication from the Assam Government has been received.

SHRI S. P. RAY: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that due to innumerable breaches of small culverts between Siliguri and Hashimara, the railway line between these two stations has remained suspended for the last four months and it is likely to remain suspended for another month?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. There have been extensive breaches

on account of the unprecedented floods. Some have been closed and some have not been.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the hon. Minister aware that in this section of the railway line, breaches occur every year, minor or major, and as a result there is interruption in rail communication for a certain time every year? May I know, Sir, what steps the Government are taking to expedite a decision in this matter?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Chief Minister of West Bengal recently discussed this question with the Railway Board and it has been decided to set up a Joint Committee for investigation by the North Eastern Railway and the West Bengal Irrigation Department, with the assistance of the Hydraulic Research Station.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether the Joint Investigation Body has already started its work?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It will start its work.

CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SERVICE SCHEME

*390. **SHRI V. S. SARWATE:** Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government servants assigned to one doctor under the Contributory Health Service Scheme for Central Government servants, introduced recently in Delhi and New Delhi; and

(b) the scale of contribution to be paid by different classes of Government servants under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): (a) About 1090 on the average.

(b) A statement giving the information required is placed on the

Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 110.]

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that before the scheme was introduced, Government employees were at liberty to get medical treatment free, whereas they have now to pay for it?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: That is so, Sir, but then the treatment that they got was nothing like the treatment that they get now and the low paid Government employees are glad of this scheme.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, what the doctors are paid for this service?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The pay of the doctors work out at about Rs. 2,58,000 recurring. The scale depends on the various categories of doctors.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Is it a fact that whereas gazetted officers, if they are dissatisfied with the medical treatment under this scheme, are at liberty to approach direct higher medical authorities, non-gazetted officers are not so allowed to do?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: No, Sir, that is not so.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, whether Government employees have the privilege to go to any doctor they like and then charge the Government?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: No, Sir. There is a panel of doctors to whom they should go.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, on what basis contribution is made?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: On the basis of pay. A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House.